

22 August 1946

Country:

USSR/Estonia

Subjects:

Soviet Forces in Estonia

Information date: End of January 1946

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1. In the former artillery training camp at Valkla (35 km east of Tallinn and on the sea shore) there is a Soviet regiment of field artillery and tanks.
2. At Japala (7 km south of Valkla) there are about two infantry regiments. In this camp, which was formerly used by snipers, the old huts were hurriedly repaired and new ones were erected, in the autumn of 1945.
3. Tanks and infantry are stationed in the former armor barracks in Käsmu (near Nõmme). Practically the entire area between Käsmu and Nõmme is surrounded by barbed wire, and sentries fire without warning at anyone who approaches the area.
4. An infantry battalion is stationed in Perila (southeast of Lihula, 45 km east of Tallinn).
5. Two "Divisions" of field artillery are stationed in the forest near Riisipere (south of Edila); they are billeted in heated tents.
6. A battalion of NKVD troops is stationed in Edila (a narrow gauge railway station south of Tallinn).
7. The Soviet-Ketodian Corps, billeted in the Kleaga Camp and in the Kopli suburb of Tallinn, is gradually becoming a labor unit. The men are employed in reconstruction, felling trees, or in working on the land. Food for this corps is very much inferior to that which is given to Soviet soldiers, and the men receive much worse treatment in regard to leave and passes also. Demobilized men belonging to this corps have been admitted to junior posts in the administration (on the level of

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rural districts only), but in October and November 1945, many of them received again notices to report for service in the army.

Coastal batteries have been mounted between Paldiski and Haapsalu and trials are being used for intensive training in firing.

9. In Paldiski are found the greatest concentration and the command of the labor battalions. These battalions include German prisoners of war, who have returned from Allied Occupation Zones in Germany; former Soviet prisoners of war; and repatriated Estonians. They are employed in the forests and engaged in reconstruction work. The daily bread allotment is 700 grams.
10. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 people are hiding in the forests of Estonia (exclusive of the Islands), mostly in the provinces of Pärnu and Virumaa. They are in groups of seven to seventeen men. The forests also provide a refuge for numerous deserters from the Red Army, among whom there are many officers.

TO: [REDACTED]

Washington Liaison Branch  
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